

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 12-16 are active in the present application. Claims 8-11 have been canceled. Claims 12-16 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. Claims 1-7 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and for clarity. No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--Claims 8-11 (Canceled).

1. (Amended) A process for preparing an antimicrobial [polymers, characterized in that] polymer, said process comprising

polymerizing one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers [which have been] ,
said one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers at least singly functionalized by means
of a tertiary amino group [are polymerized].

2. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more
aliphatically [characterized in that use is made of aliphatic] unsaturated monomers are
functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group [and having the general] of formula



where R_1 is a branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon
radical having up to 50 carbon atoms which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S
atoms, and

R_2 and R_3 are identical or different and are branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated
or unsaturated hydrocarbon radicals having up to 25 carbon atoms, which may have
substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms.

3. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the polymerization is carried out with other] Claim 1, wherein the one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers is polymerized with one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylates and methacrylates[, for example acrylic acid, tert-butyl methacrylate, methyl methacrylate, styrene, vinyl chloride, vinyl ethers, acrylamides, acrylonitriles, allyl compounds, vinyl ketones, vinylacetic acid, vinyl acetates and vinyl esters].

4. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the polymerization is carried out] Claim 1, wherein the monomers are polymerized on a substrate.

5. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the polymerization is carried out as a graft polymerization of] Claim 1, wherein the monomers are graft polymerized onto a substrate.

6. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate is activated prior to the graft polymerization [the substrate is activated] by UV radiation, plasma treatment, corona treatment, flame treatment, ozonization, electrical discharge or γ -radiation.

7. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate is activated prior to the graft polymerization [the substrate is activated] by UV radiation with a photosensitizer.

Claims 12-16 (New).--